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CONSIDERATION OF EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO ENHANCE THE PROTECTION, SECURITY AND SAFETY OF DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR MISSIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Identical letters dated 10 September 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour and the sad duty to draw attention to the disturbing fact that Taliban leaders confirmed today that the Iranian diplomatic personnel in Mazar-e-Sharif have been killed by Taliban forces, and that their bodies have been recovered. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran expresses shock and indignation at this heinous act which displays contempt by Taliban, not only for the recognized norms and principles of international law, but also for the very basic rules of human decency. This war crime must be condemned, those responsible arrested and extradited to Iran for prosecution.

In this regard, referring to Security Council resolution 1193 (1998), and particularly paragraph 8 thereof, I request urgent consideration by the Security Council of this disturbing and destabilizing development in order to take urgent and necessary measures. The cold-blooded murder of Iranian diplomats in Afghanistan by Taliban constitutes a war crime. The continued policy of militarism by the Taliban fuelled from outside, indiscriminate bombardment of civilian and defenceless people in Bamian, and the ruthless implementation of a policy of ethnic cleansing by Taliban, which are tantamount to other war crimes, have seriously escalated tension and jeopardized peace and security in the region and, as such, make it imperative for the Security Council to adopt urgent preventive measures.

* A/53/150.

The Islamic Republic of Iran considers the inhuman murder of the Iranian diplomats in Afghanistan by Taliban a gross affront to and violation of the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran and holds them responsible for the consequences.

It would be highly appreciated if this letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 149 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

Hadi NEJAD-HOSSEINIAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative